

Memorandum

Date: August 03, 2001

To: Harold Jones, Eastern
Tim Luke, State Office

From: Bob Foster, Salmon

Re: Gydesen complaint WD-73

On August 02, 2001, I met with Mike Anderson, Watermaster WD-73. The purpose of this meeting was to address a complaint received by IDWR from Billy Gydesen, a water user in WD-73.

Mr. Gydesen had alleged the following:

1. The Gydesen water right(s) were not being delivered at the P-12 diversion.
2. There had been interference in the delivery of the Gydesen water right(s).
3. There is an expansion in a groundwater right which was affecting the water level in the Gydesen ditch.
4. There were no adequate measuring devices at the P-11 and P-13 diversions.
5. There were excessive flows in the P-11 ditch, which were eroding land owned by Mr. Gydesen.

The measuring device at the P-12 diversion (Gydesen) is a four-foot rectangular weir. At the time of my visit the weir read .50 over the crest or 4.59 cfs. This was in excess of the Gydesen water right of 3.9 cfs. The weir may not be accurate as there was no hydraulic jump over the crest and the weir appeared to be low on the downstream end.

Mr. Anderson confirmed there had been interference with the Gydesen water right(s) on three different occasions, but there had been no other incidents.

The well operated by Circle Pie Ranches, which Mr. Gydesen alleges an expansion is licensed for 2.12 cfs and 106 acres under 73-7025. There is also an expansion claim 73-10064 for 1.05 cfs and 105 acres. The well was operating one seven-tower pivot; two six tower pivots and two eighth-mile hand lines at the time of my visit. There was also approximately .50 cfs being pumped into P-13 ditch from this well. This appears to be an obvious expansion of the water right and probably warrants further investigation. The correlation between the pumping of the well and the drop in the water level in the Gydesen diversion is difficult to connect as the well appears to approximately 30 feet higher in elevation and downstream from the Gydesen diversion.

The P-11 and P-13 diversions do not have adequate measuring devices. The P-11 has a lockable headgate. The P-13 headgate(s) need replaced.

The P-11 diversion was measured at the time of my visit. There was a flow of 10.96 cfs in the P-11 ditch. This was exceeding the decreed water rights by nearly 6 cfs. Mr. Gydesen stated the flows at this level do not erode his land. I instructed Mr. Anderson he should insure the excessive diversions at P-12 and P-11 were not impacting other senior users.

Due to the problems associated with the regulation of water right(s) in WD-73 my recommendation would be for IDWR to issue an order requiring lockable headgates and measuring devices within the district and to have these installed prior to the 2002 irrigation season. The ability of the watermaster to regulate water rights fairly is difficult if not impossible with the current condition of headgates and measuring devices within WD-73.